

Dear GFMD Friends of the Forum,

On behalf of the Governments of Germany and Morocco, Co-Chairs-in-Office of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) for 2017-2018, we would like to thank you for your attendance and active participation at the Second Preparatory Meeting in Geneva on 5, 6 and 7 April 2017.

The second GFMD Dialogue on the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (GCM) took place on April 6 and gathered over 180 representatives from member states, GFMD observers, civil society and private sector. The Dialogue substantiated the envisaged GFMD inputs to the scheduled stock-taking exercise for the GCM, to be held in Mexico in December 2017. The Dialogue was comprised of three working sessions, covering GCM Thematic Clusters 1, 4, and 6, which focus on the human rights of all migrants, contribution of migrants and diasporas and irregular migration and regular pathways, respectively.

The GFMD's contribution to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) prepared by the ad hoc Working Group on the 2030 Agenda and the GCM was endorsed during the Steering Group meeting on 5 April and will be submitted to the ECOSOC Chair by the end of April. The WG will now start work on GFMD's contribution to the GCM.

The ad hoc Working Group on Communications' Co-Chairs Morocco and Mexico presented amended Terms of Reference and a work plan to implement the communication strategy of the GFMD.

The Co-Chairs and Team Members of the Roundtables had final discussions on the respective background papers and the format of the sessions in Berlin on 7 April.

We are very pleased to invite all of you to participate in the GFMD Thematic Workshop on "Climate Change and Human Mobility" in Rabat, Morocco on 24 May 2017. The objective of this thematic meeting is to feed GFMD's contribution to the GCM, to contribute to provide tools to States in order to respond to challenges created by all kinds of human mobility associated to climate change, and to address the protection needs of people displaced in the context of climate change.

We are greatly looking forward to seeing all of you at the Tenth GFMD Summit in Berlin on 28-30 June 2017. The official invitation has been sent out via the Support Unit. As in previous years, registration will be possible online or by completing the printed version of the registration form. In addition, a GFMD mobile App will be launched in mid-May, which will also allow registration for logged-in users. Updated information on the registration procedure and the programme can be found on the GFMD web portal. A briefing on the Tenth GFMD Summit will be held for all missions in Berlin on 18 May.

Götz Schmidt-Bremme
Ambassador for the 2017-2018
GFMD Co-Chairmanship

El Habib Nadir
Ministry Delegate
to the Minister of Foreign
Affairs and International
Cooperation in charge
of Moroccans living abroad
and Migration Affairs

Working Session I

on the GCM Cluster 1 outcome:

Participants recognized the GFMD's unique contribution in the past 10 years as a multi-stakeholder space for trust-building and exchange of practices, that has increasingly addressed the human rights of migrants. By continuing on this role and by providing practical recommendations, the GFMD can make an important contribution to the Global Compact process.

Working Session II

on the GCM Cluster 4 outcome:

The discussion highlighted the deepening reflections over a decade-long GFMD discussion on key issues concerning migrants' contributions. In this context, GFMD's potential to feed substantially to the GCM process was underscored.

Working Session III

on the GCM Cluster theme 6 outcome:

Participants asserted that existing governance mechanisms, including regional and bilateral agreements and frameworks, must be strengthened and sensitive to the specificities of migration corridors. They also highlighted the need to engage businesses, workers' organizations and the migrants themselves in a holistic approach. Hereof, the GFMD could contribute to the GCM process by serving as an accessible pool of information and a database for relevant practices.

SRSG Louise Arbour:

UN Secretary-General António Guterres appointed Louise Arbour of Canada as his Special Representative for International Migration. She will lead the follow-up to the migration-related aspects of the 19 September 2016 High-level Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants and will work with Member States, in partnership with other stake-holders, as they develop a first-ever global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration.

Upcoming activities:

18 May:

Briefing on Tenth GFMD Summit in Berlin

24 May:

Thematic Workshop on "Climate Change and Human Mobility" in Rabat

28-30 June:

10th GFMD Summit Meeting in Berlin

29 June - 1 July:

10th GFMD Civil Society Days in Berlin